

Collect Planes?

by John F. Dunn

The aircraft industry is taking a double hit these days, what with Boeing's quality control problems and the loss of travelers due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent fear of flying.

While space flight, particularly manned space flight, has taken some of the attention away, the development of the airplane and the contributions it has made are subjects that remain widely followed in movies, on television and nowadays in the social media. Airplanes also remain popular with stamp collectors and, as a result, with postal administrations. This includes the United States Postal Service whose most recent examples include the 1918 celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Air Mail Service, not to overlook the 2013

Airmail Inverted Jenny issue and the valuable "Un-Invert" varieties, many of which remain undiscovered today.

The USPS is not alone in the acknowledgement of airplanes as an important as well as popular subject. For a quick sampling of how others approach the subject, I turned to the website of the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp. of New York, which represents more than 70 postal administrations and assists many in the development of new issues that will appeal to collectors as well as mailers.

Shown here is a sampling of issues on the site, www.igpc.com — with even more that go back for a number of years and are still available.



A 2018 souvenir sheet from the Canouan Grenadines of St. Vincent depicts a familiar subject, the first U.S. Airmail issue.



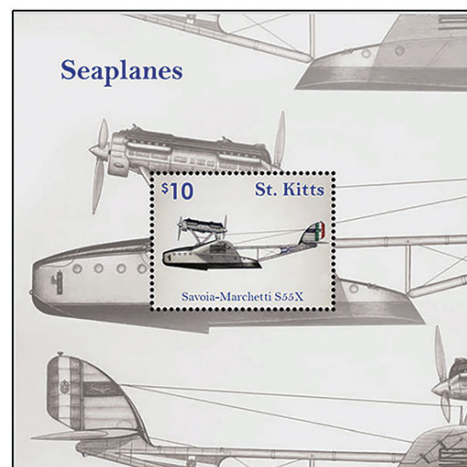
The role of the airplane in warfare as well as in service is marked on a 2018 set of stamps from Guernsey



In similar fashion, many island nations depend on local airlines for transportation and supply needs, a subject that is recognized by Montserrat on a 2016 souvenir sheet.



Flight pioneers is another category. Featured on our front cover is a 2013 Grenada souvenir sheet honoring the achievements of Amelia Earhart.



Still another popular collecting approach is by models, in this case a Savoia-Marchetti S55X on a St. Kitts souvenir sheet.

For more information on these and other issues, please go to the IGPC website, www.igpc.com.